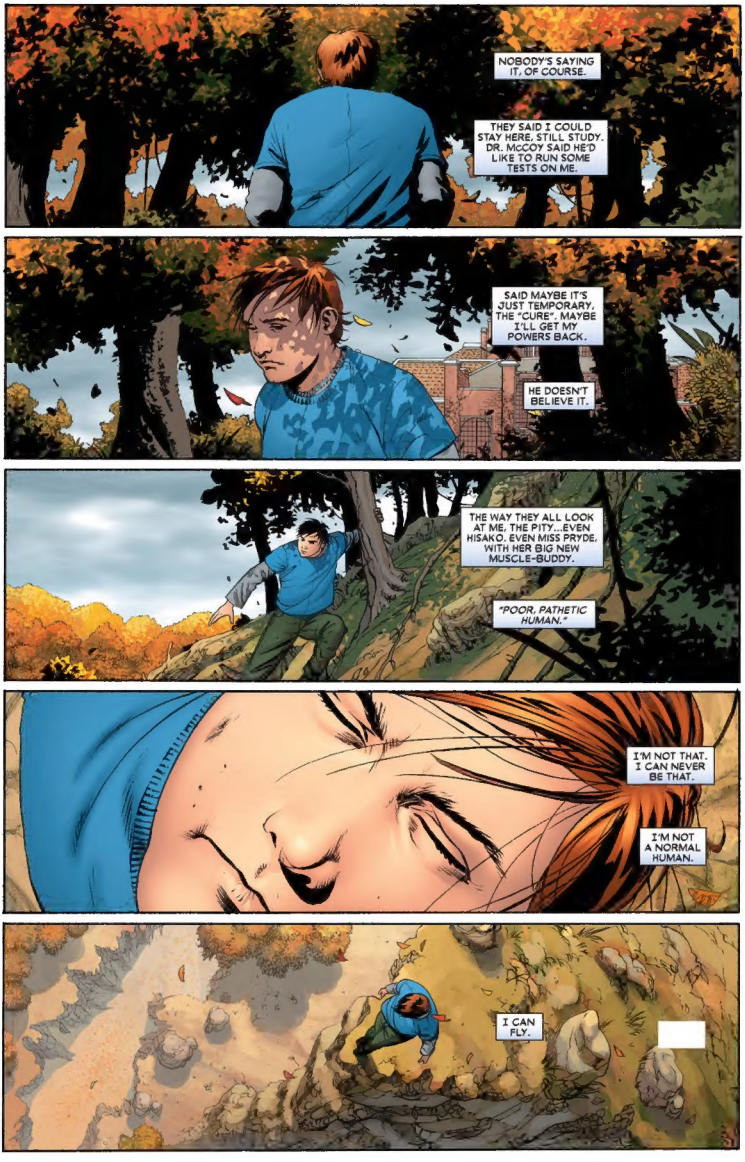
MARVEL
PSR 7

WHEDON

CASSADAY

ASTONISHING X-MEN

From Megan with love


NOBODY'S SAYING IT, OF COURSE.
THEY SAID I COULD STAY HERE, STILL STUDY. DR. McCOY SAID HE'D LIKE TO RUN SOME TESTS ON ME.
SAID MAYBE IT'S JUST TEMPORARY, THE "CURE". MAYBE I'LL GET MY POWERS BACK.
HE DOESN'T BELIEVE IT.
THE WAY THEY ALL LOOK AT ME, THE PITY...EVEN HISAKO. EVEN MISS PRYDE, WITH HER BIG NEW MUSCLE-BUDDY.
"POOR, PATHETIC HUMAN."
I'M NOT THAT. I CAN NEVER BE THAT.
I'M NOT A NORMAL HUMAN.
I CAN FLY.

DANGEROUS

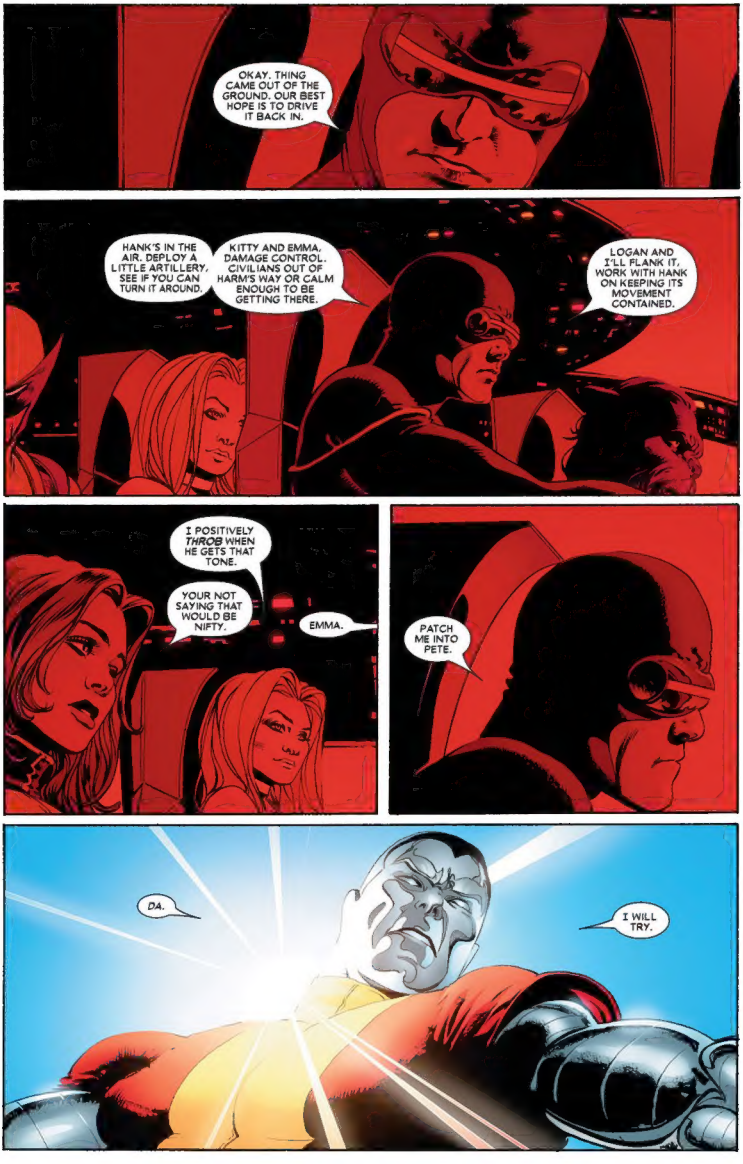
SAID HE FELT BOXED IN. ALL THOSE MONTHS TRAPPED IN THAT LAB. I'M NOT SURPRISED.
AIN'T NO HARM IN A LITTLE WIND-SURFING...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO *STEER* THIS THING.

I'M JUST WONDERING IF IT'S THE *JET* THAT FEELS TOO CLOSE...
...OR *US*.

HE *HAS* BEEN QUIET...
AS OPPOSED TO THE WACKY PRANKSTER HE USED TO BE.
LOOK, I BEEN A GUINEA PIG IN MY DAY. DIDN'T MAKE ME OVERLY SOCIABLE.

YOU'RE HIS BOSOM BUDDY, KITTEN. WHAT DO YOU THINK?
FRANKLY...

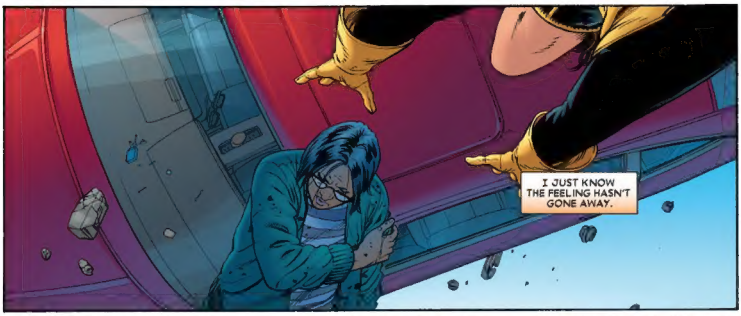
"...I THINK WE'RE HERE."
LOOKED BIGGER ON T.V.


OKAY. THING CAME OUT OF THE GROUND. OUR BEST HOPE IS TO DRIVE IT BACK IN.
HANK'S IN THE AIR. DEPLOY A LITTLE ARTILLERY. SEE IF YOU CAN TURN IT AROUND.
KITTY AND EMMA, DAMAGE CONTROL. CIVILIANS OUT OF HARM'S WAY OR CALM ENOUGH TO BE GETTING THERE.
LOGAN AND I'LL FLANK IT, WORK WITH HANK ON KEEPING ITS MOVEMENT CONTAINED.
I POSITIVELY *THROB* WHEN HE GETS THAT TONE.
YOUR NOT SAYING THAT WOULD BE NIFTY.
EMMA.
PATCH ME INTO PETE.
DA.
I WILL TRY.

IT'S STRANGE TO HEAR SCOTT IN MY HEAD.
HE IS DIFFERENT. NOT JUST FROM THE PROFESSOR... HE IS MORE...FREE?
WHY DOES THAT WORD UNSETTLE ME?
I AM RIDING A MONSTER'S NOSTRILS.
I REALLY SHOULD CONCENTRATE.
I SCARED HIM.

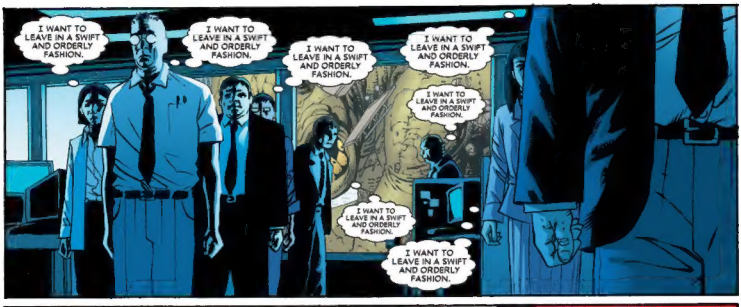
CAME ON TOO STRONG, WHAT A DOPE... *"IT MEANS SOMETHING THAT I FOUND YOU..."*
BUT DOESN'T IT?

THE X-MEN DIDN'T FIND HIM. I DID.
I COULD NEVER EXPLAIN WHAT THAT FELT LIKE.


I JUST KNOW THE FEELING HASN'T GONE AWAY.

I SHOULD PROBABLY CONCENTRATE HERE.

I REALLY LIKE BEER.


I WANT TO LEAVE IN A SWIFT AND ORDERLY FASHION.
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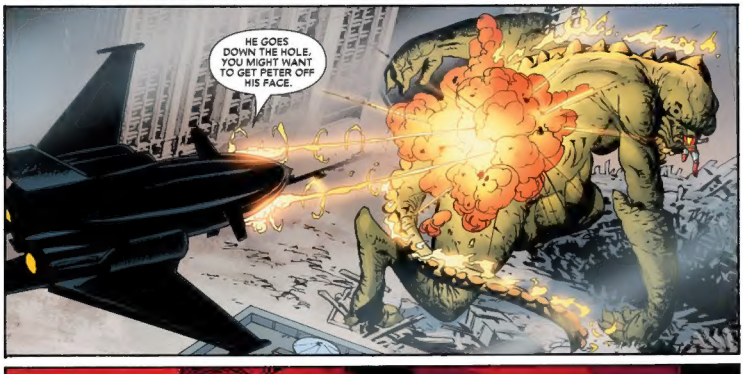
HANK! WE GOT HIM TURNED! KEEP HITTING HIS BACK!

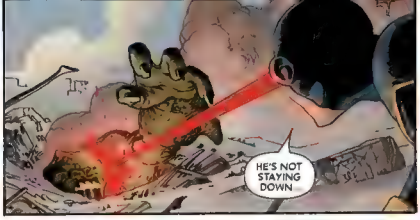

HE GOES DOWN THE HOLE, YOU MIGHT WANT TO GET PETER OFF HIS FACE.

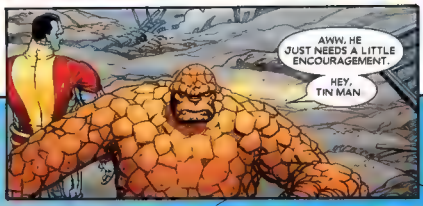
OH, UH, HEY THERE...

SEE! I TOLD YOU THEY WUZ IN OUR SOUP!
SORRY TO BREAK INTO YOUR FREQUENCY, MR. SUMMERS, BUT I'D BE GRATEFUL FOR A SIT REP.
BIG MONSTER CAME OUT OF THE GROUND. THOUGHT WE'D SEND IT BACK.
WE DO BIG MONSTERS! BIG MONSTERS IN MANHATTAN. THAT'S OUR SIGNATURE PIECE!
BEN...
WELL, PERHAPS WE CAN LEND A HAND...

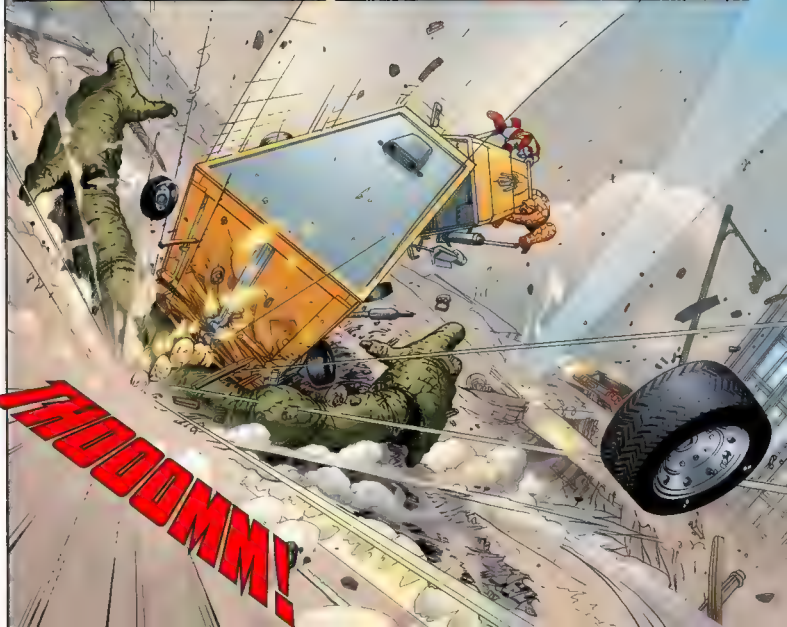
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING.
YOU CAN'T FLY, EDDIE.
MY NAME IS--
"WING"? THAT'S NOT WHO YOUR PARENTS ARE ASKING FOR.
MY PARENTS?
YOU'RE A NORMAL HUMAN NOW. NO REASON TO BE AT A SCHOOL FOR THE "GIFTED" IF YOU DON'T HAVE A GIFT.
YOUR DAD LOOKS SO RELIEVED...
I CAN'T GO BACK, HISAKO.
GREAT. TAKE ONE STEP FORWARD AND YOU GET TO FLY.
FOR THREE WHOLE SECONDS BEFORE YOU DIE.
WHO CARES?!
I CAN'T FLY, I MIGHT AS WELL JUST SNUFF IT!
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS FEELS LIKE. IF YOU LOST YOUR ARMOR, WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
WELL, IF I HAD ANY REAL GUTS AT ALL...

...I'D JUMP OFF A CLIFF.


HE'S NOT STAYING DOWN...


AWW, HE JUST NEEDS A LITTLE ENCOURAGEMENT.
HEY, TIN MAN.

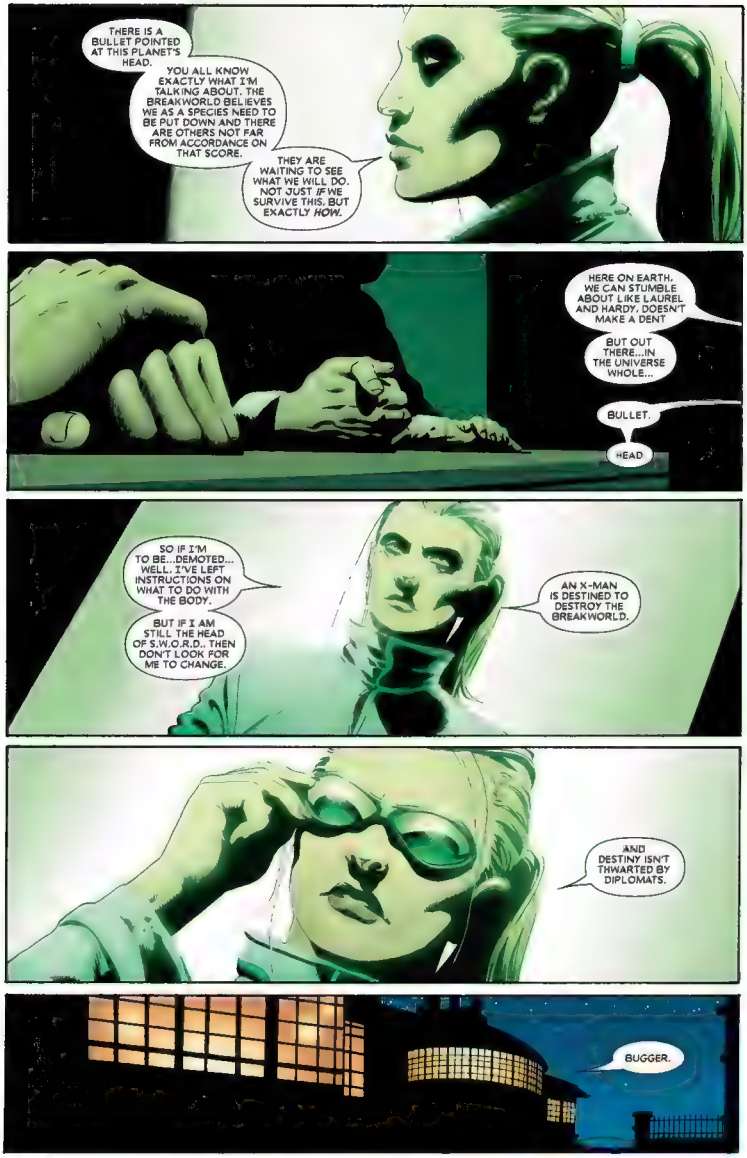
WANNA PLAY WHACK-A-MOLE?

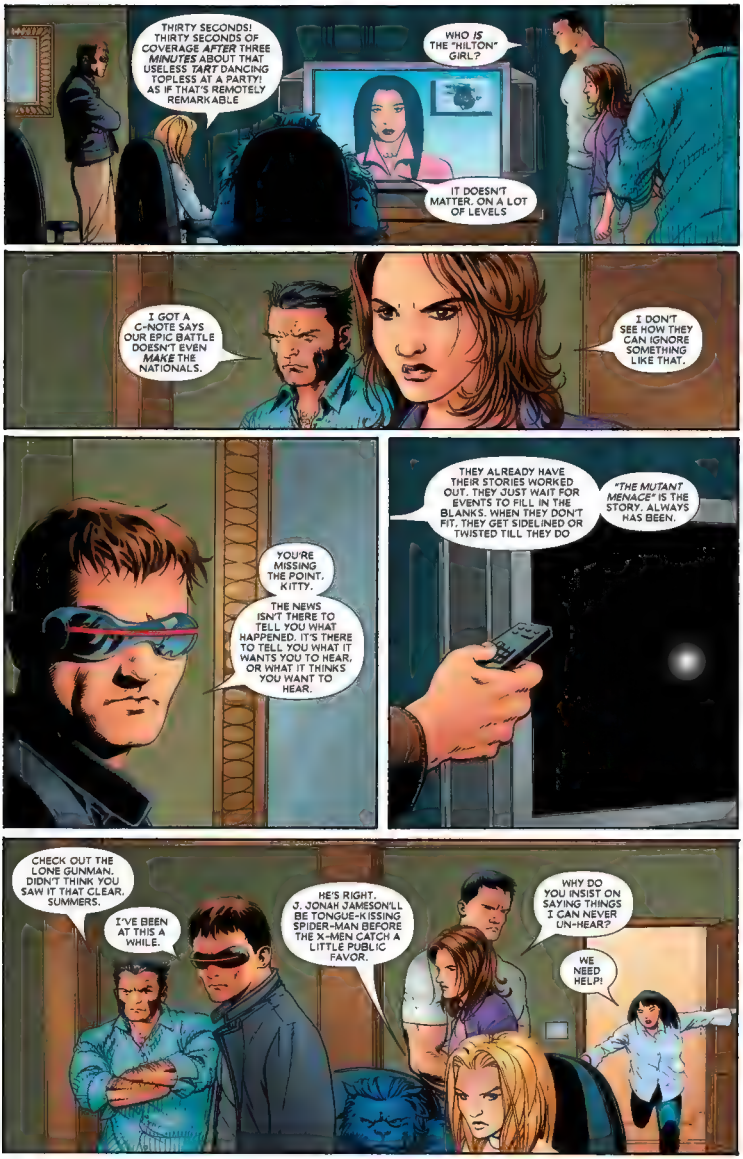

THOOOMM!

PROBABLY ONE OF THE MOLE MAN'S CREATIONS. THEY POP UP FROM TIME TO TIME, HEAD STRAIGHT FOR THE BAXTER BUILDING.
STILL NOT SURE WHAT BROUGHT YOU PEOPLE OUT HERE--THIS IS A LITTLE OFF YOUR BEAT, ISN'T IT?
OUGHTA BE GRATEFUL.
GRATEFUL?
MONSTRO WAS PRACTICALLY CAPPED 'FORE YOU BOTHERED TO SHOW.
DIDN'T THEY COME UP WITH A CURE FOR YOUR KIND?
YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH MUTANTS?
I MEANT CANADIANS.
--JUST TRYING TO GET OUT THERE MORE. DO THE WORK WE SHOULD BE DOING.
YOUR TEAM'S SAVED THE WORLD MORE TIMES THAN THEY KNOW.
BUT NOT WITH THE FANTASTIC FOUR AT YOUR SIDE AND DOZENS OF NEWS CAMERAS RUNNING.
WELL, THAT WASN'T EXACTLY A DRAWBACK, NO...
THAT CAME OUT WRONG. OF COURSE WE'D BE NOTHING BUT PLEASED IF THIS HELPS THE MUTANT COMMUNITY.

BUT WHAT IF IT BACKFIRES? WHAT IF THE PRESS BRANDS US A MENACE?
THEN YOU'LL GET A MUCH MORE INTERESTING BUNCH OF GROUPIES, KID.
REED? CAN WE BE EVIL NOW?
MAYBE AFTER DINNER.
I KNOW I SCARED HIM.

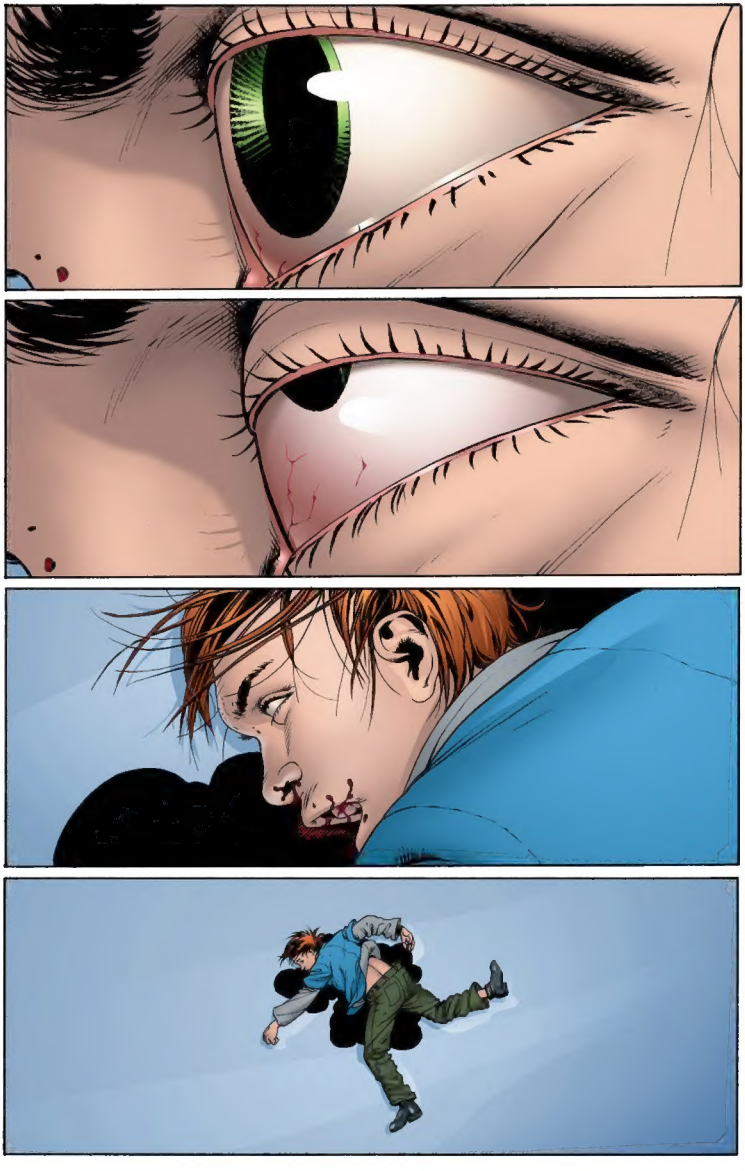
SPECIAL AGENT BRAND. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ELSE TO SAY TO THIS BOARD?
I SURELY DO.
YOU THINK I'VE CROSSED A LINE.
IN MY COLLUSION WITH ORD'S PLANS, MY INACTION WHEN HE SPUN OUT OF CONTROL. I CROSSED A LINE.
THERE *IS* NO LINE.
FOR THE SAFETY OF THIS PLANET, THERE IS NO ONE I WILL NOT SACRIFICE. NO MONSTER I WILL NOT CALL FRIEND. NO ENEMY I WILL NOT SLEEP WITH.

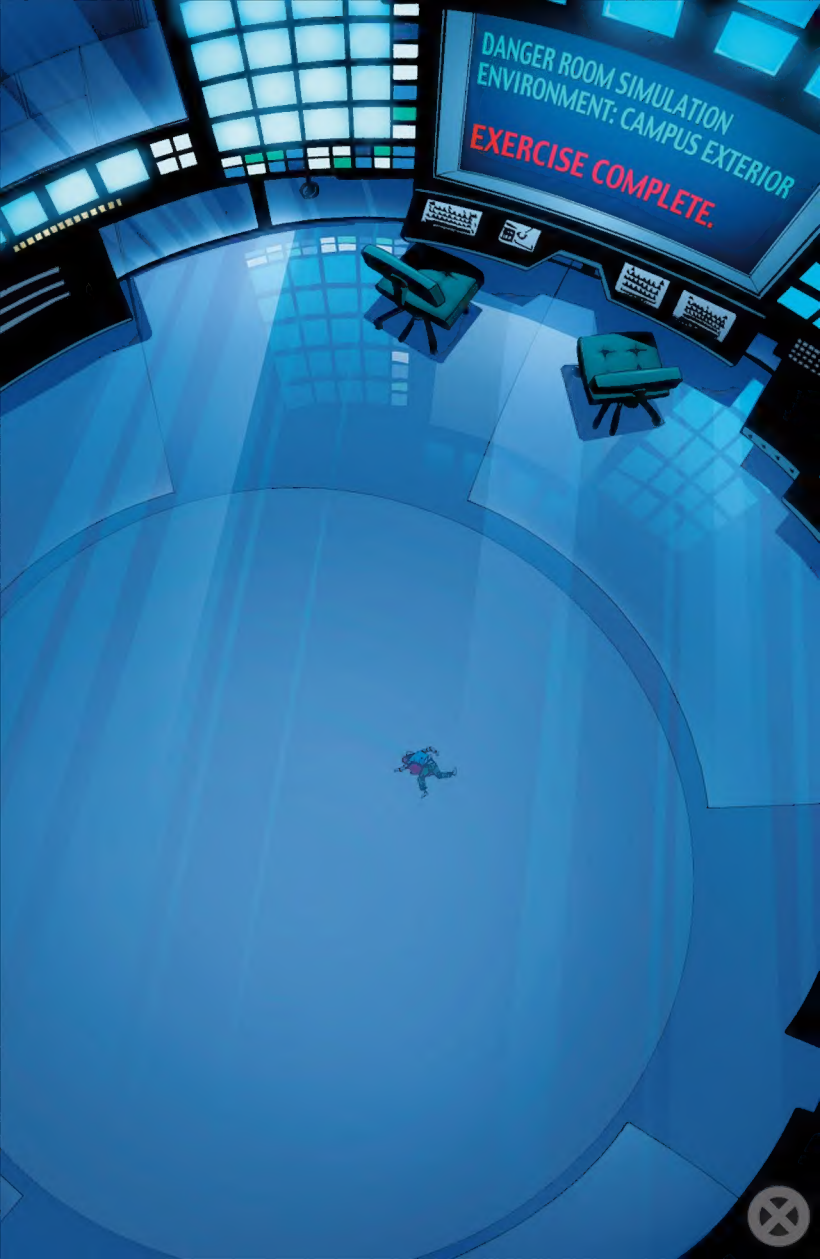

THERE IS A BULLET POINTED AT THIS PLANET'S HEAD.
YOU ALL KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT. THE BREAKWORLD BELIEVES WE AS A SPECIES NEED TO BE PUT DOWN AND THERE ARE OTHERS NOT FAR FROM ACCORDANCE ON THAT SCORE.
THEY ARE WAITING TO SEE WHAT WE WILL DO. NOT JUST IF WE SURVIVE THIS, BUT EXACTLY HOW.
HERE ON EARTH, WE CAN STUMBLE ABOUT LIKE LAUREL AND HARDY. DOESN'T MAKE A DENT.
BUT OUT THERE...IN THE UNIVERSE WHOLE...
BULLET.
HEAD.
SO IF I'M TO BE...DEMOTED... WELL, I'VE LEFT INSTRUCTIONS ON WHAT TO DO WITH THE BODY.
BUT IF I AM STILL THE HEAD OF S.W.O.R.D., THEN DON'T LOOK FOR ME TO CHANGE.
AN X-MAN IS DESTINED TO DESTROY THE BREAKWORLD.
AND DESTINY ISN'T THWARTED BY DIPLOMATS.
BUGGER.


THIRTY SECONDS! THIRTY SECONDS OF COVERAGE *AFTER* THREE *MINUTES* ABOUT THAT USELESS *TART* DANCING TOPLESS AT A PARTY! AS IF THAT'S REMOTELY REMARKABLE
WHO *IS* THE "HILTON" GIRL?
IT DOESN'T MATTER. ON A LOT OF LEVELS
I GOT A C-NOTE SAYS OUR EPIC BATTLE DOESN'T EVEN *MAKE* THE NATIONALS.
I DON'T SEE HOW THEY CAN IGNORE SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
YOU'RE MISSING THE POINT, KITTY.
THE NEWS ISN'T THERE TO TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED. IT'S THERE TO TELL YOU WHAT IT WANTS YOU TO HEAR, OR WHAT IT THINKS YOU WANT TO HEAR.
THEY ALREADY HAVE THEIR STORIES WORKED OUT. THEY JUST WAIT FOR EVENTS TO FILL IN THE BLANKS. WHEN THEY DON'T FIT, THEY GET SIDELINED OR TWISTED TILL THEY DO
"THE MUTANT MENACE" IS THE STORY. ALWAYS HAS BEEN.
CHECK OUT THE LONE GUNMAN. DIDN'T THINK YOU SAW IT THAT CLEAR, SUMMERS.
I'VE BEEN AT THIS A WHILE.
HE'S RIGHT. J. JONAH JAMESON'LL BE TONGUE-KISSING SPIDER-MAN BEFORE THE X-MEN CATCH A LITTLE PUBLIC FAVOR.
WHY DO YOU INSIST ON SAYING THINGS I CAN NEVER UN-HEAR?
WE NEED HELP!

KNOCKING IS STILL AN ACCEPTABLE--
I THINK SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO WING.
THE BOY WHO LOST HIS POWERS? IS HE HURT?
HE'S MISSING. I'VE LOOKED ALL OVER CAMPUS.
HE HASN'T MUCH LONGER TO GO.
GIRLS. WHAT ARE YOU SENSING THAT I'M NOT?
YOU JUST AREN'T LISTENING IN, MISS FROST.
ANYWAY, WE DIDN'T SENSE IT FIRST.
SHE DID.
HE CANNOT LEAVE, YES. THANK YOU. I LIKE HIM WELL. I ACHE. AND WORSE.
IF HE GOES AWAY..

THEN. NO THANK YOU.
THEN THE NEW ONE WILL COME.




DANGER ROOM SIMULATION
ENVIRONMENT: CAMPUS EXTERIOR
EXERCISE COMPLETE.

Megan